26th March 1923]

Police in the Rampa Agency Fituri.

923 *Q.*—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of officers of different cadres of the police services and also the number of the police force now engaged in the Rampa Agency Fituri;

(*b*) whether a conference or conferences were held by the commanding officer with the people of the Agency during this year;

(*c*) if the answer is in the affirmative, whether the Government will be pleased to lay either the proceedings or the result or both on the table; and

(*d*) whether they or the Agency Commissioner have received any representation or telegram from the people or the village officers regarding police oppression till the end of 15th February 1923, ever since the outbreak of Fituri?

A.—(*a*)

Superintendents	3	Sergeants	8
Assistant Superintendents.	11	Subadars and Jamadars...	19
Deputy Superintendents...	2	Head constables	73
Inspectors	6	Constables	655
Sub-Inspectors	28		

(*b*) Yes, frequently.

(*c*) There are no proceedings to lay on the table and there was very little result. Promises of help was freely given by the villagers, but were very seldom carried out.

(*d*) The only allegations of Police oppression were contained in three petitions sent to the Agency Commissioner in December after the engagements with the rebels at Peddageddapalem and Lingapuram when certain houses caught fire in the course of the operations. It was found that these petitions were all engineered by one man and all the villagers wanted was free permits to get timber to rebuild their houses. These have been granted.

II

COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL.

With reference to the answer given to question No. 535 delivered at the meeting of the Council held on the 18th December 1922, the SECRETARY laid on the table the 'Proceedings * of the first meeting of the Road Board, Fort St. George, dated the 7th March 1921'.

III

THE MADRAS HINDU RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS BILL, 1922.

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Before taking up the consideration of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill, 1922, I should like to say a few words.

"Hon. Members are aware that, though no specific time-limit is provided by Rules or Standing Orders in the case of speeches on Bills or other legislative business, I have, acting under my residual power of regulating the conduct of business in all matters not provided for in the Act, Rules or

* Printed separately.